

COMMON COUNCIL  
CAL BRAND MEETING ROOM  
CITY HALL  
SEPTEMBER 15, 2015

President Pro Tem Tim Shuffett called a regular meeting of the City Common Council to order at approximately 6:00 P.M. in the City Council Chambers.

**I. Meeting Called to Order**

- A. Opening Prayer was given by Nancy Lewis with First Christian Church.
- B. Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilor Shuffett.
- C. Roll Call was taken. Dascal Bunch, Ryan Brand, Frank Jerome, Frank Miller, Tim Shuffett, and Kenneth Whipker were present. James Lienhoop and Mayor Brown were absent.
- D. Councilor Brand made a motion to approve the minutes from the Common Council meeting on September 1, 2015 as presented. Councilor Whipker seconded the motion. Motion passed by a unanimous vote.
- E. Councilor Bunch made a motion to approve the minutes from the special joint meeting of the City Common Council and Columbus Redevelopment Commission on September 2, 2015 as presented. Councilor Jerome seconded the motion. Motion passed by a unanimous vote.

**II. Unfinished Business Requiring Council Action**

- A. Second Reading of an Ordinance entitled, "ORDINANCE NO. 16, 2015, AN ORDINANCE OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS, INDIANA FIXING SALARIES AND WAGES OF OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS, INDIANA FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2016." Matt Caldwell, Director of Finance and Operations, presented this ordinance summarizing changes from the 2015 budget. He explained the salary ordinance includes a 2% cost of living adjustment (COLA) for all employees, a full-time second shift transit mechanic, and a full-time field officer for Animal Care Services. There were no comments from the public. Councilor Jerome made a motion to pass the second reading and adopt the ordinance. Councilor Brand seconded the motion. Motion passed by a vote of five (5) in favor and one (1) opposed. Councilor Miller voted nay.
- B. Second Reading of an Ordinance entitled, "ORDINANCE NO. 17, 2015, AN ORDINANCE SETTING THE SALARIES OF ELECTED OFFICIALS FOR THE YEAR 2016." Matt Caldwell presented this ordinance explaining this is for elected officials: Mayor, Clerk Treasurer and City Council which also includes a 2% COLA. There were no comments from the public. Councilor Whipker made a motion to pass the second reading and adopt the ordinance. Councilor Bunch seconded the motion. Motion passed by a vote of five (5) in favor and one (1) opposed. Councilor Miller voted nay.
- C. Second Reading of an Ordinance entitled, "ORDINANCE NO. 18, 2015, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE COLUMBUS CROSSING PRELIMINARY PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT (PUD) PLAN WITH REGARD TO SIGNS AND LAND USES." Jeff Bergman, Director of Planning Department, presented this ordinance. He explained

the Columbus Plan Commission suggested changes to the Columbus Crossing Preliminary PUD (Planned Unit Development) sign regulations. Jeff stated the Commission's recommendation is to delete the previous detail specifications for signage in this area and replace those with guidance in which the Plan Commission believes is similar to the guidance that they provide on other topics for development and review in this area. He explained in this case the Plan Commission would be given the guidance of the CR (Commercial: Regional Center) zoning district as their starting point for sign discussions with businesses in the PUD and then beyond that they would have discretion to allow additional signage or restrict signage based on characteristics of the site and development. Jeff stated the Plan Commission forwarded this to the Council with a favorable recommendation of seven (7) in favor and two (2) opposed. Brief discussion followed. There were no comments from the public. Councilor Jerome made a motion to pass the second reading and adopt the ordinance. Councilor Brand seconded the motion. Motion passed by a vote of five (5) in favor and one (1) opposed. Councilor Miller voted nay.

- D. Second Reading of an Ordinance entitled, "ORDINANCE NO. 19, 2015, AN ORDINANCE OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS, INDIANA, TO AMEND CHAPTER 9.24, DISCRIMINATION GENERALLY AND CHAPTER 9.28, HOUSING DISCRIMINATION OF THE COLUMBUS CITY CODE." Aida Ramirez, Director of Human Rights, introduced Commissioners John Stroh and Ian Kohen. She explained the Columbus Human Rights Commission unanimously voted to recommend to the Columbus City Council amendments to Chapter 9.24, Discrimination Generally and Chapter 9.28, Housing Discrimination of the Columbus Municipal Code. She stated the amendments were for three protected categories: sexual orientation and gender identity, age (40 years of age or older), and status as a veteran. Aida provided Council with a brief historical analysis of Human Rights Amendments from the year 2000 to present. Councilor Shuffett opened the meeting for public comment. Ryan McCann, representing the Indiana Family Institute, 3600 West 96<sup>th</sup> Street, Indianapolis, spoke against the amendments to the ordinance. Ben Manring, Edinburgh, spoke in opposition to the amendments. He stated the Council was undermining freedoms that are granted to us through the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. Reverend Jimmy Collins, 705 Stonegate Drive, spoke in favor of the amendment. He stated Jesus highlighted two great commandments to live by: love God and love neighbor. Lawrence Jackson, also a clergyman, spoke in favor of the amendment and encouraged Council to pass the ordinance. Dana Harrison, 1613 Pearl Street, identified herself as a transgendered female, spoke in favor of the amendments. Steven Brian Walters, 3187 Sycamore Drive, board member for Pride Alliance, spoke in favor of the amendments, suggesting this will send a message that Columbus welcomes everyone. Mark Matheny, 2999 Prairie Stream Way, is a mental health provider; spoke in favor of the ordinance. Bob Pittman, 3735 East State Street, commends the Human Rights Commission, City Council, everyone who has attended the meetings, and the LGBT community, and hopes the Council will pass the second reading to make this a great day for Columbus. Jackie Patterson, an employee at Cummins, stated this is not about belief; it's about behavior toward one another and will allow her and others to live their lives at ease and to be more accepted and looked at in a more positive manner. Anson Flippins has lived as a woman for over 25 years and has experienced much discrimination. She believes everyone should have equal rights. Brian Umstead has lived in Columbus for one year and feels everyone should have equal rights. Jill Tasker, 2715 Franklin Drive, President of Pride Alliance of Columbus, but identifies as straight, she believes in equality and treating people fairly. Christopher Rutan, identified himself as a gay individual and implored the Council to vote in favor of

this amendment. Sonnie Currier, 1702 North Ridgewood Drive, spoke in favor of the ordinance. Greg Lykins, 650 South, Elizabethtown, would like all gays and transgender people to feel safe in the community. Chuck Doup, 3251 Fairlawn Drive, spoke against the amendments. He stated there has been no solid evidence presented that would require the amendments. Tracy Souza, 4300 North Riverside Drive, spoke in favor of expanding the local Human Rights ordinance. She stated our community is unique but we must insure that basic human rights are protected. Keith Weedman, 3451 E 850 S, stated it's time for us to take a stand on behalf of others, the issues are real and he applauds the City Council and Human Rights Commission for the active discussion, and supports the passage of the ordinance. Jeromy Chapman, 3021 12<sup>th</sup> Street, encourages the passage of this amendment. Sandy Hinshaw, 9985 Raintree Drive, spoke in favor of the amendments. Julia Stumpff, 3610 31<sup>st</sup> Street, asked the Council to vote in favor of adding the protected classes to the Human Rights ordinance, stating protections are needed. Don Strietelmeier, 9390 E 400 N, Hope, spoke against the amendment. Sherry Stark, 4320 Washington Street, asked for the strongest possible support for this amendment, stating everyone should be treated fairly. Usha Raghaven, 5969 Leatherback Court, urged the Council to provide the protected support to the community. Heidi Pesak, 486 West Lawton Circle, Rushville, believes strongly that this is a religious liberty attack. She feels, as a Christian, her religious liberty will be at risk as a Hoosier. Sameer Samudra, 3144 Red Fox Trail, stated he is married to his husband and is openly gay. He completely supports this amendment and urged the Council to pass the ordinance. Judy Romine, 12680 State Road 7, Elizabethtown, spoke against the amendment. Richard Gold, 1005 Hawthorne Drive, stated this ordinance protects the civil rights of each and every one of our citizens and urged the Council to adopt the amendment. Jared Stamper, Seymour, said protection is the key word and urged Council to pass the amendments for him and future generations. Leigh Jackman-Wheatner, 6054 E Meadow Ridge Road, stated that we protect each person's rights. She is in favor of passing the amendment. Councilor Shuffett closed the public portion of the meeting. Aida clarified a few topics discussed during the public comments. Councilor Miller explained he has paid attention to all comments, e-mails and phone calls and approximately 95% of those comments were in favor of the amendments. Councilor Shuffett explained that he thinks the Human Rights Commission has done a great job of researching this, doing their due diligence and feels it is important to take their recommendation and pass the ordinance. Discussion followed. Councilor Jerome made a motion to pass the second reading and pass the ordinance as amended. Councilor Brand seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

### **III. New Business Requiring Council Action**

- A. None

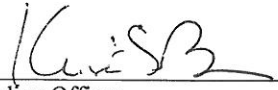
### **IV. Other Business**


- A. Standing Committee and Liaison Reports – Councilor Bunch reported on behalf of the Parks and Recreation Board that a Park Board member resigned at the September 10th meeting.

Jeff Logston, City Attorney and Executive Director of Administration, stated the city's budget is scheduled for public hearing on October 6, 2015, at 6:00 p.m.

- B. The next regular meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, October 6, 2015, 6:00 p.m. in City Hall.**

C. Councilor Brand made a motion for adjournment. Councilor Bunch seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:21 P.M

  
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Presiding Officer

Attest:   
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Clerk Treasurer of City of Columbus